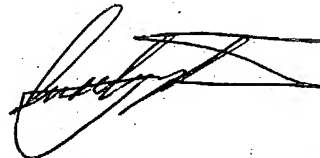


**REMARKS**

The present amendment is provided to reduce the number of independent claims and thus to reduce the filing fee.

The amendment further inserts the appropriate sentence at the beginning of the application to identify the parent application thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

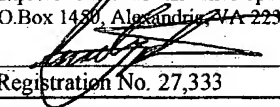


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Date: July 18, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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